



## Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby eNewsletter #632 - 21 November 2023

This weekly eNewsletter is compiled by Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) volunteers as a service for residents in Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby council areas. The eNewsletter is a new type of Neighbourhood Watch; utilising the available technology to keep people more connected and up-to-date with local crime and safety issues.

The eNewsletter includes a selection of posts from our local police at the [Ku-ring-gai PAC Facebook page](#) (also known as 'eyewatch'), primarily for those not familiar with Facebook. We add anything interesting from a Neighbourhood Watch point-of-view - this could be a local newspaper article, a roadwork warning, crime prevention tip(s), an upcoming Neighbourhood Watch meeting, Q&As from residents, or an item from another Police command ("Crooks know no boundaries!").

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🚗 Have you seen anything we should share with the community? [Please email](#) our NHW in Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby volunteers. We do value your contributions and thank you for your support.

🚗 Please feel free to share/forward this eNewsletter with your friends, family, colleagues and neighbours.

🚗 Reading our eNewsletter for the first time? [Click here to subscribe](#).

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### 21 November, from Ku-ring-gai Command: KIDS V COPS CUP

The 3rd Kids V Cops Oz tag event was held on the 20/11/2023 at Barker College, Hornsby.

Participating schools included; Knox, Barker, PLC, Holy Cross College, Oakhill College, Marist Sisters Woolwich, Asquith Girls, Turramurra High, Marsden High School, Epping Boys, Kuring Gai High, Killara High School.

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The Grand Final went to golden point with the combined team - Oakhill/PLC winning against Barker's Team 2.

Mounted Police and Youth Command also attended for the day's events.



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### **18 November, from NSW SES The Hills Unit**

NSW SES The Hills Unit with units across Sydney are assisting NSW SES Hornsby Unit and Kuring Gai Police Area Command in the search for Adrian today.

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Police are appealing for public assistance to locate Adrian Banciu, 33, who was last seen about 12pm on Sunday 12 November 2023. He was last in contact with family about 1pm on Tuesday 14 November 2023 and has not been seen or heard from since.

Recent information suggests Adrian may be in bushland in the Berowra Valley National Park and Mt Ku-ring-gai areas.

Police and family hold serious concerns for Adrian's welfare.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.



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### **15 November, from Ku-ring-gai Command: Park Smarter**

Police are reminding motorists and vehicle owners to lock up their vehicles and secure their belongings ahead of the holiday break.

Theft from a motor vehicle is largely an opportunistic crime. If an offender looks inside your vehicle and personal or valuable property is observed, they are more likely to enter your vehicle.

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## 15 November, from Ku-ring-gai Command:

Kuring Gai Police Area Command have noticed an increase in reported Gift Card Phishing Scams. Please read the below fact sheet and familiarize yourself with this popular scam.

**#yourbosssdoesnotneedgiftcards**

**Gift Card Phishing Scams**

In gift card scams attackers rely on impersonation and social engineering to engage in conversation with victims. After a few exchanges, victims are convinced to send money using gift cards rather than through wire transfers. The attackers leverage authority and urgency in their requests and will frequently impersonate high-level executives, Deans, or Chairs of departments as part of the scam.

**“Are you available?  
No calls text only 9513072XXX”**

**“I'm in a meeting and need help  
getting some Amazon Gift Cards”**

**If you think an email is a phish:**  
Report it immediately; you could save someone else from becoming a victim.  
[security.berkeley.edu/phishing/report](https://security.berkeley.edu/phishing/report)

**If you get an email that seems off:**  
Contact the alleged sender in a separate email or call them to ask if they emailed you. Don't use any information provided in the email.

Check website [here](#).



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### Dates for your Diary

**Tuesday 21 November:** FREE Tech savvy seniors - Intro to Tablets 10:15am-12:30pm @ Hornsby Library. [Bookings](#).

**Tuesday 21 November:** Kids & Traffic FREE webinar - Out and About: Safe Journeys with Kids. 5-6:30pm. [Info/bookings](#).

**Wednesday 22 November:** FREE Teaching your Learner Driver - Graduated Licensing Scheme (GLS) Presentation via Teams 6-7:30pm. [Bookings](#).

**Thursday 23 November:** Kids & Traffic FREE webinar - Starting School Safely. 5-6:30pm. [Info/bookings](#).

**Tuesday 28 November:** FREE Tech savvy seniors - Intro to Smartphones 10:15am-12:30pm @ Hornsby Library. [Bookings](#).

**Thursday 28 November:** Kids & Traffic FREE webinar - Supporting Early Language and Literacy through Road Safety Education. 5-6:30pm. [Info/bookings](#).

**Thursday 30 November:** Gordon/Killara/East Killara NHW AGM & get-together 7-9pm @ Gordon Baptist Church 'Garden Square' rooms, Park Ave. Speaker: Sgt Dean La Greca, NSWPF Highway Patrol - Random Breath Testing (RBT) & Mandatory Drug Testing (MDT). And speaker (hopefully): Snr Cst Geoff Moeller, Crime Prevention Officer with Ku-ring-gai Police Area Command based at Hornsby police station - current crime in the command and advice. General public very welcome. Bring a plate. Come and collect a personal goodie bag of

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literature and freebies.

**Wednesday 06 December:** 'Walk the Talk' against Domestic Violence. PCYC Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai (1 Park Ln, Waitara) to PCYC. 8:30-10:30am. NHW K&H will be taking part in this walk. Everyone is invited to join in.

**Tuesday 06 February 2024:** Safer Internet Day. [Info](#).

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**19 November, from Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby: From a resident:**

Hello. Would you please be able to post this photo? I would like to check if anyone can read the number plate or recognise the car. They were involved in an accident on College Crescent, Hornsby this afternoon around 3.30pm. Also if there were any witnesses and saw the car driving down the wrong side of the road whilst overtaking stationary cars.

Thank you.



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**19 November, from Neighbourhood Watch - Wahroonga**

Hey All, my sons white Ford ranger 2018 model was stolen last night from out the front of our home in Halcyon Ave, Wahroonga. We think they have come

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inside and taken the keys and that it happened between 2 and 4 am. If anyone may have seen, heard or experienced anything dodgy overnight could you please reach out? May help us piece together what has happened. Attaching photos of when first purchased, number plate has now changed to the photo. Thanks all.



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### **18 November, from Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby**

Several residents (especially in Wahroonga) suspect there are scammers in local community groups offering couches/sofas for sale and requesting cash up front, even before arranging any meeting (possibly in Epping). The seller may be very new to the group. The item may be "too good to be true". Do not

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transfer any funds. Report to the group admins.

Does anyone know this profile? Is she real? I gave her an address in Wahroonga to collect the sofa today but is no longer responding. I'm assuming she is a scam as the communication channels were turned off and she asked for payment prior (I didn't pay). Anyone know?



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**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH STRATEGY - What would you like to see  
Neighbourhood Watch doing in your community?**


Please email us on: [NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com](mailto:NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com)

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18 November, from Hill Police Area Command

**SHOUTOUT TO EVERYONE  
THAT STILL REMEMBERS  
THEIR CHILDHOOD PHONE  
NUMBER BUT CAN'T  
REMEMBER A PASSWORD  
YOU CREATED  
YESTERDAY. YOU ARE MY  
PEOPLE!**



Review your passwords. Recent news stories about the Dark Web and With cybercrime steadily rising, if you see your own password on the list, it's time to make a drastic change.

Here's the full list of the 20 most commonly stolen passwords, along with how long it reportedly takes hackers to crack them.

- 1 - banned (2 Minutes)
  - 2 - 123456 (< 1 Second)
  - 3 - admin (< 1 Second)
  - 4 - password (< 1 Second)
  - 5 - 1234 (< 1 Second)
  - 6 - qwerty123 (< 1 Second)
  - 7 - 12qwasZX (< 1 Second)
  - 8 - 12345 (< 1 Second)
  - 9 - 12345678 (< 1 Second)
  - 10 - qwerty (< 1 Second)
  - 11 - Qwerty123 (< 1 Second)
  - 12 - 123456789 (< 1 Second)
  - 13 - Starwars29 (3 Seconds)
  - 14 - welcome11 (2 Seconds)
  - 15 - \*\*\*\*\* (< 1 Second)
  - 16 - Deadman01 (1 Minute)
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20 - abc123 (< 1 Second)

The Town of Peshtigo Fire Department just took delivery of an emergency plug for use on electric vehicles. This device is used to disable an electric vehicle and keep first responders safe when working at an emergency scene involving an EV. This new safety tool will be placed into service and carried on our first

due engine after some initial training. It's purchase was made possible thanks to fund raising efforts and community donations.

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### **From NHW in Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby: 'Our 20 Favourite Crime Prevention Tips for Car Owners:**

- **Tip #1.** When you leave your car unattended (even short periods), close all windows, remove key from ignition and lock all doors. Remember, it's an offence under the Aussie Road Rules to leave your car unlocked.
  - **Tip #3.** Ensure you have removed all valuable property from view [e.g. mobile phone, sunglasses, bag, wallet, loose change, clothing, laptop, iPod]. Either take them with you, or lock them in the boot. Remove all signs that property may be in the car, e.g. no blankets covering tempting lumps on the back seat, no carrier bags.
  - **Tip #4.** Remove any GPS (mapping/navigational system) from sight. If it was mounted on the windscreen – remove the tell-tale mark.
  - **Tip #8.** Consider installing a high-quality alarm, tracking/security system and/or locking devices on the steering wheel or transmission shift – all good deterrents. The most effective car alarms are switched-on people!
  - **Tip #10.** Don't leave personal papers, such as licence or registration, in your vehicle. They may be used to dispose of the vehicle. However, do keep with you a note
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of your  
vehicle registration and Vehicle Information Number (VIN).

For more tips and translations, look at our website 'Tips' page [here](#). Or try our WatchOut! website [here](#), for links to some great information available on the internet. Or request a copy in your inbox [here](#). Other languages are available.

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### **18 November, from Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby**

Our KerbWatch house numbers aren't quite up to the standard in this video.....  
More info about our KerbWatch project [here](#).  
Watch video [here](#).

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### **17 November, from NSW Road Safety - NSW GOV**

Yea or 'neigh'? 🐾

In NSW, horse riders have the right to share our roads with vehicles. 🤖





17 November, from NSW Health:



NSW Health is warning of the dangers from using a drug suspected to be cocaine, which has resulted in heroin overdoses.

The drug is currently circulating around Sydney and has resulted in one death and two hospitalisations of three people, all aged in their 30s.

NSW Poisons Information Centre Medical Director, Dr Darren Roberts, said in the past week, there have been three people who were admitted to hospital from heroin overdose after use of substances they thought to be cocaine, with one person sadly dying.

"We've seen heroin overdose among people using what they thought was cocaine. A heroin overdose could quickly result from snorting a single line," Dr Roberts said.

"It's important that people recognise the signs of an opioid overdose early and know how to respond. Opioids such as heroin can cause pin-point pupils, drowsiness, loss of consciousness, slowed breathing/snoring and skin turning blue/grey and can be life-threatening."

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“One of the dangers of illicit drug supply is the strength and contents of the substance you are getting is unknown and can be inconsistent. In light of this detection, people who use cocaine should also consider carrying naloxone.”

Anyone who has taken a stimulant drug, such as cocaine, and is experiencing unexpected symptoms, such as drowsiness, should call Triple Zero (‘000’) immediately or seek urgent medical attention. Naloxone should be given immediately if available.

Naloxone is an important life-saving medication that reverses the effects of opioids. It does not require a prescription and is free for anyone at risk of opioid overdose in NSW.

It is available as a nasal spray or injection from some pharmacies and other health services. For more information on the take-home naloxone program visit: <https://yourroom.health.nsw.gov.au/.../Pages/Naloxone.aspx>.

NUAA can mail you naloxone for free in a discreet package. Order via their online shop (<https://shop.nuaa.org.au/>) or call (02) 8354 7343.

You won't get into trouble for seeking medical care. If you feel unwell, or if your friend feels unwell, do something about it.

Anyone who has concerns about adverse effects from drugs should contact the NSW Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26, at any time 24/7.

For support and information on drug and alcohol problems, contact the Alcohol and Drug Information Service on 1800 250 015. This is a 24/7 service offering confidential and anonymous telephone counselling and information.

NSW public drug warnings are available [here](#).

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**17 November, from Neighbourhood Watch - Hornsby**



Shared with permission from the Hornsby Heights Community group yesterday (Wednesday):

👤 @ Storey Park

Please talk to your kids it's NOT cool

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**17 November, from the Neighbourhood Watch - Hornsby**

Shared with permission from the Hornsby Heights Community group yesterday (Wednesday):

Update - a police report has been filed to review bus cctv. If your kid caught bus home this arvo at 3:45-4pm and got off down Somerville and has a racket pls

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check it - my son has his name on our one and it's in a black tennis cover. If returned tonight no questions asked and no further action will be taken .

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Help ! My son has just left his tennis racket on the 596 from Hornsby to black ash . . He got off bus at primary school, realised , waited on Somerville to intercept bus on way back to Hornsby and it's been taken by someone already .



If you spotted it /have it , we would be very grateful. One very upset kid here .  
Pic below same colours/brand



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### **16 November, from Neighbourhod Watch Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby**

Shared with permission from the Thornleigh, Westleigh and Normanhurst Community group:

#### **Neighbourhood Watch Alert**

My number plates were stolen off my car in Normanhurst about two weeks ago. The thief replaced my plates with other similar plates from an unregistered vehicle, so I didn't twig to why my car looked a little different for a few days. So where have my plates been in the past two weeks? Well my e toll account tells me my plates have been on "adventures" driving through every

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conceivable tollway in Sydney and as the first of no doubt a long string of speeding fines have started to arrive in my letterbox, my plates have been going fast too! I even get to see photos of my plates on their “adventure” of speeding through the Lane Cove Tunnel 25km over the speed limit at 2am. The fines and tolls have currently clocked up around \$1000 and counting. My plates have been having more fun than I ever gave them!

Note: I did report the theft to the Police and was issued new plates at Service NSW, so they are no longer “my plates” and the tolls have been refunded and speeding tickets are been cancelled.

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### **15 November, from the Daily Mail: Scandal engulfs NSW Police as a high-ranking cop is hit with criminal charges - here's why he can't be named**

A high-ranking police officer has been charged with high-range drink driving but cannot be named because of 'operational reasons'.

The unidentified 46-year-old executive allegedly attended a function in The Rocks precinct in Sydney's CBD in May this year before getting behind the wheel of his police-issued car while off-duty.

Read more [here](#).

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### **15 November, from New Scientist**

Cockatoos are in a "cultural arms race" with Sydney residents and their bins. The residents cannot relax - as fast as they come up with new ways to stop the sulphur-crested cockatoos from raiding the bins, the birds are working out ways to defeat them.

Watch video [here](#).

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### **15 November, from 9news.com.au: Cybercrimes surge in Australia with one every six minutes**

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Cybercrimes have surged in Australia, with online attacks averaging out to one every six minutes.

The latest annual threat report from the Australian Signals Directorate has outlined some alarming facts about the new wave of cyber attacks against individuals and businesses.

About 94,000 cybercrimes were reported to law enforcement agencies in the past year, up 23 per cent since the year before.

[Read details here.](#)

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### From Police in the area



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### IMPORTANT CONTACTS & LINKS

**Emergency** (Police/Fire/Ambulance): **000**  
**TTY: 106**

**NSW Police - Ku-ring-gai Police Area Command (PAC): 9476 9799**  
Hornsby Police Station, 292 Peats Ferry Road, Hornsby 2077

**Local Police Facebook page: [@Kuring Gai PAC](#)**  
Non-emergency two-way communication

**Police Assistance Line (PAL): 131 444**  
For non-urgent minor crime.

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### **NSW Police Community Portal**

Online reporting of non-emergency minor crime: lost property, intentional damage, graffiti or theft.

### **Interpreting & Translating Services: 131 450**

[NSW Police - website](#) for crime prevention advice

Never be afraid or embarrassed to report a crime, concern or fear you have to the Police.  
The Police are here to help you.

### **Crime Stoppers NSW: 1800 333 000**

Report crime anonymously

Report suspicious activity ASAP

### **Neighbourhood Watch Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby:**

**Website** [au-NHWKuringgaiHornsby.org](http://au-NHWKuringgaiHornsby.org)

**Facebook** [@NHWKuringgaiHornsby](#)

**Facebook Group** [NHWKuringgaiHornsby](#)

**Twitter** [@NHWKRGHornsby](#)

**Email** [NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com](mailto:NHWKuringgaiHornsby@gmail.com)



### **WatchOut! - the NHW NSW one-stop-shop for crime prevention links:**

**Website** [WatchOut.org.au](http://WatchOut.org.au)

**Facebook** [@NHWWatchOut](#)

### **Local NHW Facebook pages:**

[Neighbourhood Watch - Berowra](#)

[Brooklyn Neighbourhood Watch](#)

[Neighbourhood Watch - East Killara](#)

[Neighbourhood Watch - Galston, Glenorie, Arcadia, Dural \(Rural Areas\)](#)

[NHW Galston, Glenorie, Arcadia & Dural \(Rural Areas\) Facebook Group](#)

[Neighbourhood Watch - Gordon](#)

[Neighbourhood Watch - Hornsby](#)

[Neighbourhood Watch - Killara](#)

[Neighbourhood Watch - Mt Colah](#)

[Neighbourhood Watch - Mt Kuring-gai](#)

[Neighbourhood Watch - Normanhurst](#)

[Neighbourhood Watch - Pennant Hills](#)

[Neighbourhood Watch - Pymble & West Pymble](#)

[Neighbourhood Watch - St Ives](#)

[Neighbourhood Watch - Thornleigh](#)

[Neighbourhood Watch - Turramurra](#)

[Neighbourhood Watch - Wahroonga](#)

[Neighbourhood Watch - Warrawee](#)

### **Face-to-Face NHW groups:**

Neighbourhood Watch - Berowra (paused)

\*Neighbourhood Watch - East Killara

\*Neighbourhood Watch - Gordon/Killara (plus part of Pymble)

Neighbourhood Watch - Mt Colah (paused)

\*Neighbourhood Watch - St Ives (Lynbara Ave)

Neighbourhood Watch - Turramurra (The Chase) (paused)

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\*These NHW groups have joined together for the purpose of committee, shared meetings and printed newsletters.

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